

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A surgical instrument for the dissection of bone or other tissue having a motor with a power output, the surgical instrument comprising:

a dissection tool having an elongated shaft with a dissection area disposed adjacent a distal end and a coupling area disposed adjacent a proximal end, the dissection tool having a flexible portion along at least a portion of the elongated shaft;

a coupling assembly configured for coupling the power output to said coupling area of said tool; and

an angled attachment tube having a proximal portion for coupling to said coupling assembly and an internal passage extending from said proximal portion to an opposite distal portion, the attachment tube positioned along at least a portion of said elongated shaft and substantially supporting a portion of said elongated shaft disposed adjacent said dissection area, said internal passage including a longitudinal curved portion disposed between said proximal portion and said distal portion, said angled attachment tube supporting said elongated shaft in a longitudinally ~~[[curved]]~~ flexed configuration corresponding to said curved portion such that the flexible portion of the dissection tool is at least partially aligned with the longitudinal curved portion of the angled attachment tube,

wherein said attachment tube is movably coupled to said coupling assembly.

2. (Original) The surgical instrument of claim 1, wherein said coupling assembly has a longitudinal axis and said angled attachment tube is configured for coupling with the coupling assembly at a plurality of locations.

3. (Original) The surgical instrument of claim 2, wherein said attachment tube is configured such that movement along said longitudinal axis is accomplished without substantial rotary motion.
4. (Original) The surgical instrument of claim 1, wherein said attachment tube is axially movably coupled to said coupling assembly.
5. (Original) The surgical instrument of claim 1, further including a second coupling assembly linked to said coupling assembly, said second coupling assembly adapted to selectively lock said attachment tube to said coupling assembly.
6. (Original) The surgical instrument of claim 5, wherein said second coupling assembly includes a locked position wherein said attachment tube is locked to said coupling assembly, a guiding position wherein said attachment tube is moveably coupled to said coupling assembly, and an open position wherein said attachment tube is removed from said coupling assembly.
7. (Original) The surgical instrument of claim 6, wherein said coupling assembly and said attachment tube include a projection and detent retention system therebetween to retain said attachment tube in said guiding position.
8. (Original) The surgical instrument of claim 7, wherein said attachment tube defines a plurality of elongated detents along an outer surface and said coupling assembly includes at least one projection for mating with said elongated detents.

9. (Original) The surgical instrument of claim 8, wherein said at least one projection may be slidably disposed in said elongated detents to permit axial movement of said attachment tube with respect to said coupling assembly.

10. (Original) The surgical instrument of claim 6, wherein said coupling assembly includes an aperture for receiving said attachment tube and at least one movable projection extending into said aperture, wherein said movable projection cooperates with said attachment tube to retain said attachment tube in the guiding position.

11. (Original) The surgical instrument of claim 10, wherein said movable projection provides a tactile sensation to the user to indicate movement between the open position and the guiding position.

12. (Original) The surgical instrument of claim 1, wherein said motor includes a motor housing and said coupling assembly is removably coupled to the motor housing.

13. (Original) The surgical instrument of claim 12, wherein the motor housing includes a tool chuck and said coupling assembly includes a work shaft, said work shaft removably coupled to said tool chuck.

14. (Original) The surgical instrument of claim 13, wherein said tool chuck is moved to a locked position coupling the work shaft by rotational movement of said coupling assembly about a portion of said motor housing.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Previously presented) The surgical instrument of claim 1, wherein the attachment tube further comprises at least one bearing proximal to the curved portion and at least one bearing distal to the curved portion to support at least a portion of the elongated shaft.

17. (Previously presented) The surgical instrument of claim 1, wherein the elongated shaft includes a reduced diameter portion.

18. (Previously presented) The surgical instrument of claim 1, wherein said elongated shaft includes a curved portion.

19. (Original) The surgical instrument of claim 1, wherein said angled attachment tube has an angle of between about 3° and about 30°.

20. (Original) The surgical instrument of claim 1, wherein said tool has a height of about 1 to about 6 inches.

21. (Original) The surgical instrument of claim 1, wherein said tool has a diameter of about 0.02 to about 0.5 inches.